Trend Analysis Committee Meeting

Minutes

Meeting held March 7, 2007

Attendees: Angela Robbins, Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Beverly Hart, Carol Miller, Colleen Lasater, Cora Peterson, Jeff Harrop, JJ Glazier, Kevin Jackson, Linda Prince, Linda Wininger, Marty Shannon, Phyllis Lee, Reba Nissen, Savania Tsosie.

Trend Data Review

During our last meeting, it was decided that we would review Trends 15 and 16 during this meeting.

Trend 15—Number of children in custody who are legally freed for adoption and the percent who are placed in an adoptive home within six months
This is a point-in-time report. The data that is showing on this report seems to be reporting low numbers of children who are legally free for adoption. We want to know if the data is showing us what is real.

The Trend Indicator Report was presented for review. Linda P. explained that there might be errors in this report because they changed the way data is linked in SAFE. She will change the report to pull correct data. Linda explained that the way the data is collected is that it looks at children who have TPR or deceased data on both parents, and on their placement it has been identified as a legal risk (looking at committee approval data, or fost/adopt agreement date). This may need to be changed to look at adoption agreement dates.

There are inconsistencies as to how these data are entered in different regions, which makes it difficult to decide how to pull accurate data. Marty suggested that we revise the Adoption Agreement form to be friendlier to our adoptive families. There is another form that is used for legal risk children. Colleen suggested that we look at both forms to see if we can develop one that will be used by everyone.

JJ and Bev stated that kinship placements are also problematic in these data when the kin are adopting the children.

Entering of the TPR dates is not being done consistently throughout the state. There is also a problem with showing TPR dates for unknown fathers.

Aude suggested that we pull this data by goal of adoption, and then look for TPR dates and placements to see how many are legally free. We may want to create a field to check if a child is legally free. Linda P. explained that there are many date fields available to help us identify if the child is legally free and if the goal is adoption. This still doesn't help us see if the placement is the adoptive placement.

When the Child and Family Plan is released in SAFE, it may help caseworkers see what data is being auto-filled and if that data is correct. We may want to make mandatory fields in SAFE for workers to enter date fields.

Next Steps:
- Linda P. will provide a report that lists all children in care who have at least one TPR or deceased date of the parent, then we will be able to filter information from there. Everyone will review the report during the next quarter and will bring back to the committee what they are seeing in their region. (Answer these questions: How many children with one TPR date and not the other; how many children with TPR dates that have individualized permanency plans; how many children have a goal of adoption and have TPR dates for both parents and still have an open case; how many children do we have that have a goal of adoption with no TPR dates.)
- Look at what SAFE can do for requiring mandatory fields when there is an adoption goal. (Linda W. will talk with Jay.)
- Linda P. will provide a write-up of how this data is currently being pulled.
- What is the ability to link information from the CARE system? (Diane Moore is currently working on this.) (Linda W. will talk with Diane.)

Trend 16—Number and percent of adoption placements that disrupt before finalization
This trend shows a low percent of disruptions before finalization. Marty explained that because of how we allow finalizations to occur quickly after TPR in Utah, there might be some adoptions that are dissolved and not disrupted. This data measure is ok at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was sent for **Wednesday, May 16, 2007 from 10am to noon, at the DHS Administration Building.**

We will have each region report on Trend 15. We will invite someone from SAFE to attend the meeting.